IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of   :

Jorge Antonio SVED   :

Serial No. Not yet assigned   :   Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

                    :

Filed: herewith   :   Examiner: N/A

For: QUALITY CONTROL IN DATA TRANSFER AND STORAGE APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
      Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

      Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5 as follows:

      5. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, including the error processing unit comprising input apparatus for receiving blocks of data, error checking apparatus for determining whether there are any errors in a block of data and, if so, whether the number of errors in said block of data exceeds a predetermined number, and output apparatus for outputting one of two signals indicating that the number of errors respectively exceeds or does not exceed said predetermined number, wherein said predetermined number may be one of a plurality of numbers between 0 and n, where n is an integer.
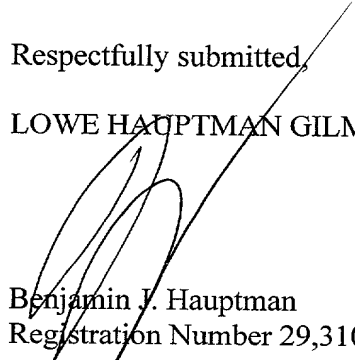
REMARKS

      The above-referenced application is amended to delete the multiple dependencies of claim 5

and avoid the multiple dependent claim filing fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Marked-Up Version Showing Changes".

Respectfully submitted,

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of data, where X is an integer, at least one data writer for writing said blocks of data to said one or more storage devices, at least one data reader for reading back data written to said one or more storage devices and transferring said data from the at least one data reader to error checking apparatus, said error checking apparatus being arranged to determine whether there are any errors in a block of data and, if so, whether the number of errors in a block of data exceeds a predetermined number Y and, if so, to output a signal accordingly, wherein Y is an integer and $Y \leq X$.

4. ~~An error processing unit~~ comprising input apparatus for receiving blocks of data, error checking apparatus for determining whether there are any errors in a block of data and, if so, whether the number of errors in said block of data exceeds a predetermined number, and output apparatus for outputting one of two signals indicating that the number of errors respectively exceeds or does not exceed said predetermined number, wherein said predetermined number may be one of a plurality of numbers between 0 and n, where n is an integer.

5. Apparatus according to claim 1, including the error processing unit of claim 4.

6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein n is an integer equal to the maximum number of errors which can be detected/corrected in each block of data as defined by said error detection/correction capability.

7. Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising control apparatus for receiving said signal output from the error checking apparatus.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said control apparatus is arranged to rewrite a block of data only in the event that it contains more than said predetermined number of errors.

9. Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of parallel tracks by means of which a number of blocks of data are simultaneously written across said one or more storage devices.